

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT ANKARA AND NICOSIA AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS

1. IN MY PRIVATE MEETING LAST NIGHT WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AT HIS APARTMENT PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS ANOTHER SUBJECT (SEPTTEL), THE SUBJECT OF CYPRUS CAME UP BRIEFLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT BY FAR THE MOST INTERESTING AND SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS WAS THAT CARAMANLIS WAS REALLY GIVING VERY LITTLE IMPORTANCE OR ATTENTION TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE. WE DISCUSSED A WHOLE RANGE OF QUESTIONS AND GREECE'S OVERALL INTERESTS IN THE LARGEST SENSE. EVEN SO, ALMOST NEVER DID CARAMANLIS MAKE MUCH OF A REFERENCE TO CYPRUS OR REFLECT MUCH KEEN AND CURRENT CONCERN ABOUT IT. HE TALKED ABOUT CYPRUS IN TERMS OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO AND DID NOT SEEM INTERESTED IN GETTING INTO DISCUSSION OF WHERE MATTERS STOOD NOW OR WHAT THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR FURTHER INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS AND A POSSIBLE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. IT WAS AS THOUGH HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RESIGNED THEMSELVES TO THE FACT THAT NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS WAS POSSIBLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE -- WHETHER BECAUSE NONE OF THE PARTIES REALLY SAW IT IN THEIR INTEREST TO MAKE CONCESSIONS OR FOR WHATEVER REASONS -- AND THAT THE

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PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS THEREFORE MUST AND COULD BE

TOLERATED.

2. OBVIOUSLY, THERE IS NO WAY CARAMANLIS OR HIS
GOVERNMENT COULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOREGOING AS REFLECTING
THEIR CURRENT POSITION. HOWEVER, I HAVE DETECTED
INCREASING DISINTEREST ON THE PART OF CARAMANLIS TO
DISCUSS THE CYPRUS ISSUE IN RECENT MONTHS, AND I THINK
IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT IN MY MEETING WITH HIM LAST NIGHT,
WHICH WENT ON FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, HE DISCUSSED IT
ALMOST NOT AT ALL.
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